

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00964 061044Z

21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 ACDA-05

DHA-02 ORM-01 /092 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3037

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

CINCEUR

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0964

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SO, US

SUBJECT: SENATE VISIT TO BERBERA; FAREWELL CALL ON SIAD

1. SENATOR BARTLETT, ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOYES, SENATE STAFFERS REXROAD AND SMITH, DR. RODRIGUEZ-LOPEZ AND CHARGE, MET WITH PRESIDENT SIAD FOR APPROXIMATELY FIFTY MINUTES AT 1200 LOCAL JULY 5. PRESENT ALSO WERE SRC VICE PRESIDENT CULMIE AND SOMALI PROTOCOL OFFICIALS.

2. SENATOR THANKED SIAD FOR HOSPITALITY EXTENDED BY SOMALI GOVT IN ENABLING GROUP TO VISIT BERBERA. HE PRAISED ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY COLONEL SULEIMAN, SRC MEMBER WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED GROUP TO BERBERA. (FYI COL SULEIMAN WAS NOT RPT NOT PRESENT END FYI).

3. FOR SIAD'S BENEFIT, SENATOR BARTLETT BRIEFLY REVIEWED ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THEIR BERBERA TOUR JULY 4. HE TOLD SIAD THEY HAD INSPECTED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOGADI 00964 061044Z

POL FACILITY AND BERBERA PORT AREA, WHERE THEY WERE DENIED ADMISSION

TO SOVIET BARRACKS SHIP. GROUP HAD ALSO BEEN UNABLE TO TOUR SOVIET RECEIVER AND TRANSMITTER SITES, BOTH OF WHICH WERE UNDER SOVIET CONTROL. IN COMMENTING ON SOVIET TRANSMITTER SITE, SENATOR OBSERVED THAT TRANSMISSION FACILITIES WERE EXTREMELY POWERFUL AND THAT IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT TRANSMITTER DID NOT RPT NOT SERVE LOCAL NEEDS. HE TOLD SIAD THAT HE AND GROUP OF FOUR ADVISORS HAD INSPECTED MISSILE HANDLING AND STORAGE FACILITY, WHICH WAS EXTREMELY LARGE INSTALLATION.

GROUP ALSO HAD OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT TRAILER AND BARRACKS AREA. THEY HAD BEEN TOLD THAT TRAILERS WERE OCCUPIED BY SOVIETS AND THAT BARRACKS BUILDINGS HOUSED BOTH RUSSIANS AND SOMALIS. THEY HAD ALSO TOURED NEW AIRFIELD UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

4. REGARDING BERBERA TOUR, SENATOR BARTLETT SAID IN CONCLUSION THAT HE

AND HIS GROUP HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO ALL OF THOSE FACILITIES TO WHICH SOMALI GOVT AND COLONEL SULEIMAN COULD OBTAIN ADMITTANCE. HE NOTED THAT COLONEL SULEIMAN HAD TOLD HIM AT BERBERA THAT IF IT WERE IN THE COLONEL'S POWER TO DO SO, HE WOULD HAVE ADMITTED THEM TO THE SOVIET FACILITIES AS WELL. BUT THIS HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN POSSIBLE. SENATOR SAID THAT HE AND HIS GROUP WOULD PREPARE THEIR REPORT FOR THE SENATE UPON THEIR RETURN TO US.

5. SENATOR ALSO COMMENTED ON GROUP'S VISIT TO REFUGEE CAMPS IN NORTH ON JULY 4 AND THE TOUR OF RESETTLEMENT SITE SOUTH OF MOGADISCIO ON JULY 5. ENTIRE GROUP HAD BEEN EXTREMELY IMPRESSED BY EFFORTS SOMALI GOVT TO RESOLVE THEIR REFUGEE AND DROUGHT PROBLEMS. BUT ADDITIONAL HELP NEEDED IN RESETTLEMENT CAMPAIGN AND SENATOR TOLD SIAD THAT UPON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON, HE WOULD REPORT ON HIS VISITS

TO REFUGEE AND RESETTLEMENT CAMPS AND ATTEMPT TO BRING SOMALI NEEDS TO ATTENTION OF CONGRESS.

6. IN CONCLUSION, SENATOR BARTLETT TOLD SIAD THAT HE WISHED ASSURE HIM THAT AMERICAN PEOPLE AND CONGRESS WERE NOT RPT NOT HOSTILE TO SOMALIA BUT WERE SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR ENORMOUS PROBLEMS AND EFFORTS THEY WERE MAKING TO BRING THEM UNDER CONTROL. HE HOPED PRESIDENT SIAD WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT.

7. SIAD DID NOT RPT NOT ATTEMPT DRAW OUT SENATOR ON CONCLUSIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOGADI 00964 061044Z

OF HIS BERBERA TRIP AND DID NOT RPT NOT COMMENT ON SOVIET BARRACKS SHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES. HE SAID SIMPLY THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO READING SENATOR'S REPORT WHEN IT WAS AVAILABLE.

8. SIAD THEN ASKED SENATOR BARTLETT TO CARRY MESSAGE BACK TO AMERICAN PEOPLE WHICH WOULD RESULT IN SOME GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFICULTIES SOMALIA FACED AND HEROIC BATTLE SOMALI PEOPLE WERE WAGING IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO DEFEAT THEIR ENEMIES: POVERTY,

IGNORANCE AND DISEASE. THEIR ENEMY WAS WOUNDED BUT NOT RPT NOT YET DEFEATED AND BATTLE WOULD GO ON. SOMALIA DID NOT RPT NOT SEEK CONFRONTATION WITH UNITED STATES, WHOSE PEOPLE HAD SUCCESSFULLY FOUGHT SAME BATTLE IN WHICH SOMALIA NOW ENGAGED. HE HOPED AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD UNDERSTAND THIS.

9. SENATOR BARTLETT INVITED SENATE STAFFERS, NOYES, DR. RODRIGUEZ-LOPEZ, AND CHARGE TO ADD ANY FINAL STATEMENTS. GROUP EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO SIAD AND SOMALI GOVT FOR HOSPITALITY AND CANDOUR, AND WAS PARTICULARLY EMPHATIC IN PRAISE FOR SOMALI REFUGEE AND RESETTLEMENT EFFORT. I BELIEVE THAT STATEMENTS MADE SIGNIFICANT IMPRESSION PRESIDENT SIAD.

10. COMMENT: SIAD HAD TOLD SENATOR BARTLETT AND HIS GROUP ON JULY 3 THAT REAL PURPOSE OF INVITATION TO SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN WAS TO WITNESS AT FIRST HAND SOMALIA'S ENORMOUS PROBLEMS. I BELIEVE SIAD FEELS -- FROM HIS SIDE -- THAT THIS PURPOSE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. GSDR OFFICIALS WHO SAT IN AND WHO HAVE WITNESSED INNUMERABLE EXCHANGES BETWEEN SIAD AND HIS FOREIGN VISITORS WERE THEMSELVES GREATLY IMPRESSED AND ENCOURAGED BY SIAD'S FINAL EXCHANGES WITH SENATOR BARTLETT AND HIS GROUP.

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